THE STORY MACHINE
QUICK REFERENCE CARD

Error messages sometimes appear on the green line that normally reads, "THE STORY MACHINE." This card will help you understand what is confusing to the computer. We'd suggest that you tape it to the back cover of your Story Machine package.

Too Many Actors

Only four "actors" (pictures of things) can appear on the screen at the same time. Story Machine treats the plural of a word as one actor.

To proceed, you will have to EAT or ZOT something. This erases one actor and makes room for another.

Example:

You type: THE BOY HOPS.
THE DOG SINGS.
THE GIRLS DANCE.
THE PURPLE FENCES WALK.
THE BOY JUMPS TO THE GREEN STORE.

Computer: TOO MANY ACTORS

Not Close Enough

To EAT something, the actors must be in the space immediately above or below the object they are trying to eat. If they are not, the computer says: NOT CLOSE ENOUGH.

Ouch

If you try to eat a person or an animal, the computer says OUCH. It's not nice to try such a thing.

Unknown Word

If you type in a word that isn't in the Dictionary, the computer will respond with: UNKNOWN WORD.

Wrong Word Used

If you type in a word that is inappropriate for a particular usage, the computer will send a WRONG WORD USED message.

Example:

You type: THE DOG HOUSE

Computer: WRONG WORD USED

The reason for this is that you are using DOG as an adjective, and it can only be used as a noun.

Short Sentence

If you press the period before completing a full sentence, the computer says: SHORT SENTENCE

Example:

You type: THE RED HOUSE.
Computer: SHORT SENTENCE

You must type what the house does or what happens to the house.

Run On Sentence

If you write a sentence that is too long, or you forget to press the period, the computer says RUN ON SENTENCE.

Object Error

This stands for Direct Object Error. Only EAT and ZOT can take direct objects. If you try to do something else to a noun, the computer will say OBJECT ERROR.

Example:
You type: THE BOY JUMPS THE
Computer: OBJECT ERROR

No Such Actor

If you use a pronoun before you have put that particular actor on the screen, the computer says NO SUCH ACTOR.

Too Many Letters

You can only use 16 letters before pressing Space Bar or the period. If you use more than 16 letters, the computer will say TOO MANY LETTERS.

Incorrect Form

Articles, verbs, pronouns and nouns must be either singular or plural, and must be used in their correct form with each other. If not, the computer will tell you INCORRECT FORM.

Example:
You type: THESE BOYS JUMPS
Computer: INCORRECT FORM

You should have typed THESE BOYS JUMP.

No Room Near

Actors can be located in any of six positions on the screen (three on the left and three on the right). To be near an actor means to be in the position immediately above or below that actor. If such a position is not available, the computer tells you NO ROOM NEAR.

Story Too Long

Stories can be 255 words long, and periods count as words. If your story is close to 255 words, it's time to end it. If you try to type in more than 255 words, the computer will tell you STORY TOO LONG.